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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Atsushi ITO et al.

Appln. No. 09/673,953

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: October 24, 2000

For: WAFER PROBER

February 23, 2001

Handwritten: 5630

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

A copy of the International Search Report (ISR) for PCT/JP99/05693, wherein the listed documents were cited, is submitted herewith.

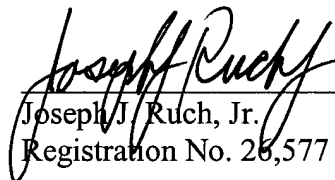
It is understood that the International Bureau has provided copies to the USPTO of the documents cited in the International Search Report (ISR). If such has not been provided by International Bureau, please advise the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below, and any necessary copies will be obtained and provided to the Examiner.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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